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President Pro
Tempore,
North Carolina Senate**



**Joe Hackney
Speaker,
North Carolina
House of
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Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096

Joint Study Committee on Hospital Infection Control and Disclosure

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that approximately 2,000,000 people annually become ill from hospital-acquired infections, called nosocomial infections, and about 90,000 people die each year from hospital-acquired infections; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that hospital-acquired infections add at least \$5,000,000,000 annually to the nation's health care bill; and

WHEREAS, a Pennsylvania report on hospital-acquired infections found that 76% of the cost for treating infections in that state was billed to public health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that despite the risks associated with nosocomial infections, information on nosocomial infection rates is hard to obtain, even though basic data is compiled as hospitals monitor infections, particularly in intensive care units and following surgery; and

WHEREAS, the CDC estimates, based on voluntary reporting, that hospital-acquired infections have become America's leading cause of death from infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the General Assembly to enact a law requiring public disclosure of hospital-acquired infection incidence rates to become effective in 2010;

NOW THEREFORE,

Section 1. The **Joint Study Committee on Hospital Infection Control and Disclosure** (hereinafter "Committee") is established by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-19.6(a1), Rule 31 of the Rules of the Senate of the 2007 General Assembly, and Rule 26(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 2007 General Assembly.

Section 2. The Committee consists of 12 members, including 4 legislators and 8 public members. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint 2 Senators to the Committee, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 2 Representatives to the Committee. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint a co-chair from among their respective appointees. The Committee and the terms of the members shall expire when the Committee submits a final report to the General Assembly. Members serve at the pleasure of the appointing officer.